

2017-18 Admission Policy for Nursery Classes in Community First and Primary Schools

Children who reach their third birthday on or before 31 August of the year they are to be admitted are entitled to 15 hours of nursery provision per week. The entitlement is usually taken in 5 daily sessions of three hours.

If a child will reach the age of three during the academic year in question and places are available, the school can admit termly. Priority will be given to children who become three during the autumn term, then the spring term and then the summer term. A place can only be offered to a child in these circumstances if it can be confirmed that the place is not needed for another child who will become four during that year.

Applications for places in nursery classes in September 2017 should be made directly to the school **by midday on 15 January 2017**. Offers of a place will be made by the school from 18 April 2017.

Attendance at a nursery class does not guarantee a place in a reception class at the same school or at the associated primary or first school.

Children with statements of special educational needs where the statement names a specific school will be offered a place.

If there are fewer applications than places available then every child will be offered a place. **If there are more applications than places available**, then the following over-subscription rules are applied and places are offered to children who are ranked highest.

1. Children in the care of a local authority (looked-after children).

The following criteria are not in priority order. Governing Bodies are free to exercise discretion in the light of individual circumstances.

2. Children with a brother or sister (a sibling) in the nursery class or nursery school or in the primary or first school associated with the nursery, in September 2017.

3. Distance from home address to nursery measured in a straight line using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer or a suitable alternative geographical information system.

4. Special reasons such as

- a. Family breakdown
- b. Three or more children under 5 years old in one household
- c. Children who are at an educational disadvantage because their use of the English language is minimal or non-existent
- d. Home accommodation unsuitable for young children
- e. Failure to thrive socially, medically or psychologically
- f. Physical, sensory or learning difficulties

If special reasons are to be considered, detailed information about the child's circumstance will be required.

Schools that have had to refuse a parent's application because there are more applications than places available will keep a **waiting list** of applicants. If a place becomes available it will be offered to the applicant on the waiting list who ranks highest in accordance with the published admission rules. **There is no appeal procedure** for parents refused a place in a nursery class or nursery school.

Parental Responsibility

Parents who share responsibility for the care of their child are expected to reach agreement to a nursery placement between themselves. In the event of a dispute the school will accept the application from the parent to whom the child benefit is paid.